

SOURCE; MOPR'S BANNERS ABROAD,
REPORT TO THE THIRD MOPR CON-
GRESS OF THE SOVIET UNION, BY
H. STASSOVA. (Congress held
Feb. 15-19, 1931)

VI. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANISATIONS

ABROAD

What is the total of the imprisoned in jails?

On January, 1930, there were in jails 62,313 people.

On January 1, 1931, there were 169,039 people.

What army do we have in order to defend these impris-
oned comrades?

How great is the army of the MOPR in the entire world?

In 1928 we had throughout the world 44 organisations.
On January 1, 1930 we had 52 organisations, and on January
1, 1931, we already had 58 organisations. During the last
years new organisations were formed in the following
countries:

Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Porto
Rico, Peru and Philippine Islands.

You see that almost all sections are organised in the
colonial countries. This indicates what demands must and
should be put before us in relation to our organisation.

Alongside with this we must point out, that whereas
in 1929 we had 27 legal sections and 25 illegal sections,
then already in 1930 we had 20 legal sections, which is a
lowering of legal sections and 33 illegal sections, that
is an increase.

There are also five sections which are semi-legal.

There is a clear turn; the number of arrests are in-
creasing, the number of death sentences and murders are
also on the increase, and on the other hand -- the turn

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of the bourgeois policy in the direction of making the MOPR organisations illegal.

How many people are grouped in our sections?

Here we have not a consoling picture. While on January 1, 1928 we had 8,900,000 people on January, 1, 1931, we had 8,305,454.

If we shall analyse at whose expense this decrease took place then the picture will be not against us, but rather in our favor. Why? The fact of the matter is that on January 1, 1931, we had a larger number of organisations collectively affiliated to us, namely 3,216, whereas at the present time -- only 2,137, that is, the collective organisations are beginning to leave us, and this is explained by the fact that the organisations which are in one or the other way connected with the Social-Democracy are beginning to leave us under the pressure of the Social-Democratic leaders. The reformist trade unions, and members of the Social-Democratic parties are forbidden by the Second International to take part in the work of MOPR.

If on January 1, 1928, we had a collective membership of 4,231,108 people, then at the present time, on January 1, 1931, we have 1,597,634 people, among them 900,000 members of the English trade unions, which under the pressure of the Labour Party left the ranks of the MOPR organisation.

We are growing on the basis of individual membership.

If on January 1, 1928 we had 441,929 people, then at the present time we have 1,149,590 people.

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The picture is clear -- the decreasing number of collective membership and the growth of individual members.

What is the social composition of our membership, and what is the basis of its growth?

I shall take the figures which I gave at the Second Congress and will compare them with what we have at the present time.

Previously workers constituted 76 per cent of our membership and at the present time 69 per cent.

Peasants previously constituted 10 per cent; at the present time 21 per cent.

Non-Party workers were 58 per cent, at the present time 49 per cent. Members of the Communist Party we had 42 per cent -- now 51 per cent.

Male membership was 80 per cent, now 74.5 per cent. Women were previously 20 per cent, now -- 25.2 per cent.

Young Communist League members we had previously 12 per cent, now -- 45.9 per cent.

And so we are growing first from the ranks of the peasantry, secondly, on the basis of Party organisation, and thirdly, from Young Communist League members and from the women.

If we will take the absolute figures then we shall see that the number of workers has not decreased but on the contrary, has increased, but as a proportion of the whole it has decreased.

I am citing average figures because if we begin to analyse on the basis of individual countries then this would over-burden our memories and would unduly lengthen my report.

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Which tasks do we set before our collective organisation and what is the form of this collective organisation?

You remember the first year of the origin of MOPR here in the Soviet Union when whole enterprises, entire shops and factories, etc., were joining collectively, and only then began the enrollment of individual members. Then we came to the conclusion that this was not advisable for us in the Soviet Union.

Abroad, the Executive Committee continues to carry out the old line, considering as its duty the possibility to embrace broader masses of workers and peasants in order that among the collective members we may gradually win individual members. And this is the line which we give; the centre of attention of the Executive Committee was directed in order to sink our roots into the large enterprises, in order to have permanent strong nuclei precisely at the point of production.

This line we were giving also in connection with the fact that once we are firmly entrenched in the enterprises, then it is much more difficult to persecute the organisation and to arrest its members.

I will cite Italy as an example. In spite of the existence of the Fascist terror there for many years, there is in Italy at the present time a big organisation consisting of individual members, which functions on the principle of work in the enterprises.

Inasmuch as the large mass of our organisation is without the law, and is persecuted in the same way as the revolutionary trade unions and the Communist organisations,
then

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then it is essential for all our organisations to be reconstructed in such a way as to be in certain safety from our enemies -- the police.

Two types of organisation exist abroad. To the first type of organisation apply mass organisations, similar to that in the Soviet Union -- this is the Chinese section, which is one of the largest after the U.S.S.R., the German section, North American, French and Italian sections.

The other organisations are organisations of a committee type. What does this mean? It means that throughout the country only the committees exist, united by the Central Committee, but which in essence do not carry on sufficient political work, but occupy themselves exclusively with rendering assistance to the political prisoners, their families, and providing legal assistance, etc.

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